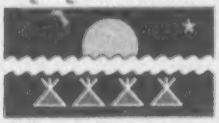
Northwest Territories

Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'awoo



Tłı̨chǫ Government

Working Together

The Tłı̨chǫ Government/GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding

October 2014

Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Tłı̨chǫ Government

and

The Government of the Northwest Territories

INTRODUCTION

On August 4, 2005 the *Tłı̨chǫ Agreement* came into effect and the Tłı̨chǫ Government was established, complete with lawmaking powers associated with areas of jurisdiction. The *Tłı̨chǫ Agreement* has the force of law.

The *Tłı̨chǫ Agreement* provides for the creation of a number of intergovernmental agreements and bodies – including the Tłı̨chǫ Intergovernmental Services Agreement and Tłı̨chǫ Intergovernmental Services Agency and the Tłı̨chǫ Implementation Plan and Tłı̨chǫ Implementation Committee, to ensure the effective implementation of the *Tłı̨chǫ Agreement* and the coordination of the activities of all governments.

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT acknowledge their unique and evolving government-to-government relationship and agree to work with one another on the basis of mutual respect, recognition and responsibility. Both Governments now wish to formalize their government-to-government relationship through an Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be known as *the Tłı̨chǫ Government/GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding*.

PRINCIPLES

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT recognize and respect the diversity of cultures, history and traditions among the people of the Northwest Territories and respect that different governments may have unique political and policy priorities.

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT welcome the opportunity to deepen their understanding of each other's views and commit to working together to make progress and achieve outcomes on matters of mutual interest.

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT agree to work together to achieve a respectful, strong and meaningful government-to-government relationship, with effective communication and information sharing.

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT recognize that, in addition to the intergovernmental agreements and bodies identified in the *Tłı̨chǫ Agreement*, additional bilateral arrangements and agreements may be appropriate in order to facilitate cooperation between their respective governments.

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT commit to constructive collaboration, a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, knowing that cooperation will help to maximize the benefit for the people served by each respective Government.

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT recognize that there may be different perspectives on various issues and that agreement may not always be achievable on all issues.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The purpose of the *Tłı̨chǫ Government/GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding* is to enhance the relationship between the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT and provide a framework within which the two Governments can work together. Areas of cooperation and discussion will include, but not be limited to:

- Housing
- Unearned income under subsidy programs benefitting Tłı̨chǫ citizens
- Community infrastructure needs
- Community Government issues
- Areas of duplication, overlap, potential harmonization and compatibility within their respective areas of jurisdiction
- Status and progress of GNWT implementation obligations under the Tłı̨chǫ Final Agreement
- Any other areas of mutual interest identified by the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT.

MEETINGS

Meetings of Elected Leaders

There shall be two meetings a year between the Tłı̨chǫ Government Executive Council members and all the Cabinet Members of the GNWT.

In advance of the meeting, the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT will reach agreement on an agenda that has been jointly developed by officials from both Governments. Where applicable, briefing materials, reports or other documents may be shared between Governments.

Following each meeting, the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT will agree upon a joint summary of outcomes and commitments.

Meetings of Officials

Officials from the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT shall work together to plan and prepare for meetings of the elected Leaders, including developing a joint agenda and shared briefing materials where applicable, and developing a joint summary of outcomes and commitments.

Officials from the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT shall develop a work plan in support of the meetings to ensure that meeting outcomes are fulfilled, where applicable.

As appropriate, senior officials from the Tłı̨chǫ Government shall be invited to the GNWT Deputy Ministers' Committee and the North Slave Regional Management Committee meetings.

INFORMATION SHARING

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT agree to share information with respect to matters of mutual concern in an open and timely manner. The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT will adhere to protocols for effective communication between Governments.

Protocols include each Government notifying the other of upcoming activities, regional visits and/or emergent issues of concern. More specifically, the GNWT shall advise the Tłı̨chǫ Grand Chief and the appropriate Tłı̨chǫ Community Chief(s) when Ministers and/or MLAs are intending to visit Tłı̨chǫ communities.

Protocols for communication include:

- GNWT correspondence addressed to the Grand Chief of the Tłı̨chǫ Government should be copied to the Tłı̨chǫ Executive Officer, the Premier of the Northwest Territories and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations;

- GNWT correspondence addressed to the Tłı̨chǫ Government should be copied to the Tłı̨chǫ Executive Officer;

- GNWT correspondence addressed to the Tłı̨chǫ Community Governments should be copied to the Tłı̨chǫ Executive Officer;

- Tłı̨chǫ Government correspondence addressed to the Premier of the Northwest Territories should copied to the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; and

- Tłı̨chǫ Government correspondence addressed to Ministers of the GNWT should copied to the Premier of the Northwest Territories and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations.

EFFECT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Nothing in this *Tłı̨chǫ Government/GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding* creates legal obligations.

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall constrain the respective governments from exercising their powers and responsibilities, nor impose any financial obligation.

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding prevents the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT from participating in other intergovernmental processes or agreements.

TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The *Tłı̨chǫ Government/GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding* shall be in effect for a period of four years from the date of signing. The Memorandum of Understanding may be periodically reviewed and, upon written consent, may be renewed for a further term as agreed to by both Governments.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be reviewed and amended upon written notice being given to the other Government at least 60 days in advance with the mutual agreement of both Governments.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Government upon written notice to the other Government at least 60 days in advance of the termination date.

SIGNATORIES

The *Tłı̨chǫ Government /GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding* is renewed by the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories on this 8th day of October, 2014.

FOR THE TŁ̨CHǪ GOVERNMENT

Grand Chief Edward Erasmus

Chief Clifford Daniels

Chief Alfonz Nitsiza

Chief Johnny Arrowmaker

Chief David Wedawin

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Honourable Robert R. McLeod
Premier of the Northwest Territories

Honourable Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Finance